

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 29, 2005

Senate Resolution

No. 17

Introduced by Senators Margett and Ducheny
(Coauthors: Senators Battin and Romero)

June 21, 2005

Senate Resolution No. 17—Relative to the 100th anniversary of parole.

1 WHEREAS, On July 21, 1905, the first parole officer was
2 appointed. In 1909, Edward H. Whyte was hired as the first Chief
3 State Parole Officer. Mr. Whyte used the media to dispel
4 misconceptions about parole and went on to strengthen his
5 relationship with law enforcement. The Parole Bureau began its
6 expansion under Whyte's leadership; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1928, there were five parole officers in San
8 Francisco: Robert Heinze, Tom Pendergast, John Hanrahan, Jack
9 Cullen and George Bowen. The Bureau also opened an office in
10 Los Angeles staffed by Deputy Parole Officer J. E. Lewis and an
11 assistant. In 1934, Edward Whyte died and Charles C. Coxe was
12 later appointed Chief State Parole Officer; and

13 WHEREAS, When John Chadwick took over the helm as
14 Chief State Parole Officer in 1939, parole officers were political
15 appointees. There were no set standards for workload and
16 accountability. Chadwick knew that, for parole to continue its
17 expansion and to be effective in ensuring public safety, the
18 political element had to be removed. In 1941, Chadwick was
19 successful, and civil service requirements were instituted for all
20 parole officers with exception of the chief. In 1957, the title was
21 changed to parole agent. Modern day parole agents continue to
22 work under the foundation of this civil service law; and

1 WHEREAS, The following laws made a major impact on
2 parole: The initial parole law of 1889 enacted in 1893, the
3 indeterminate sentence law of 1917, the law creating the
4 California Institute for Women (CIW) in 1929, which segregated
5 men and women prisoners, the law creating the California
6 Department of Corrections and the Adult Authority of 1944, the
7 Supreme Court case of Brewer v. Morrissey in 1972, which
8 established a parolee's right to a hearing before being returned to
9 prison, and the determinate sentence law of 1977; and

10 WHEREAS, The law creating CIW and the creation of the
11 Women's Board of Trustees provided gender segregation for
12 prisons and parolees. Upon completion of CIW, women
13 previously being held in San Quentin and in county jails were
14 moved to CIW in Tehachapi. The women prisoners out on parole
15 had only women parole agents/officers - WPA/WPO. The
16 Women's Board of Trustees oversaw all operations; and

17 WHEREAS, Emily Latham, an initial member of the
18 Women's Board of Trustees, became the first Women's Chief of
19 Parole and oversaw all state operations. Dorothy Stahl
20 subsequently took over as Chief of women's parole operations.
21 In the late 1960s, she oversaw a push for gender desegregation
22 and a pilot project was created. Marilyn McKeehan, a women's
23 parole agent was selected to be one of the first women to
24 supervise male felons. She was successful and the Department of
25 Corrections ended gender segregation; and

26 WHEREAS, In 1977, under the Determinate Sentence Law,
27 the Women's Board of Trustees was eventually disbanded and
28 the California Department of Corrections, Parole & Community
29 Services Division took over responsibility for all prisoners and
30 parolees in the state; and

31 WHEREAS, The T.H. Pendergast California Parole Museum
32 in Diamond Bar was opened in 2003 to educate the public about
33 parole, its positive contribution to the community and to honor
34 those who have worked in the profession and given a great part
35 of their lives to public protection and restorative justice. The T.H.
36 Pendergast Parole Museum Board of Directors collects and
37 organizes artifacts that document the history of parole in
38 California; and

39 WHEREAS, The T.H. Pendergast California Parole Museum
40 will unveil an exhibit at the State Capitol commemorating and

1 celebrating 100 years of parole in California on June 30, 2005;
2 now, therefore, be it
3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, that the
4 Senate hereby recognizes and commemorates 100 years of ~~parole~~
5 *public service by parole agents* in California.
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